

[The Light of the World](#) (song taught in July 2018)

John 8:12 Jesus said, “I am the Light of the World, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”

(Happy Mother’s Day!!! ❤️❤️❤️)

Optional discussion questions/conversation starters:

- Wish your mom a “Happy Mother’s Day!” and give her lots of hugs and kisses. 😊
- This verse is so familiar that it can seem simple, but there is so much to it!!
- Old Testament or New Testament? (I know some of these questions can seem ridiculous. Repetition is key to learning!) Who wrote these words? Who was John? The book of John is one of the four _____? What are the other three gospels? What does gospel mean? (Good News) What is the “Good (amazing phenomenal incredible fantastic extraordinary!) News”? What else did John write? (letters of 1, 2, 3 John and Revelation)
- Talk about what you think this verse means. Everything shared will probably be correct: darkness, light, Jesus is our light, may be reminiscent of Psalm 119:105 (Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. This was in part of our song two weeks ago: “The Word of the Lord.”)
- What does “Light of the World” mean? What is the “Light of Life”?
- What does it mean to “walk in darkness”?
- What does “follows me” mean?
- Are we able to do something requested of us if we aren’t told what to do or how to do it? (No!) How do we “follow Jesus” and live the way He wants us to live if we don’t know

how He wants us to live? (We need to be told/learn how He wants us to live.) How do we learn the way Jesus wants/tells us to live? (Reading the Bible, learning the Bible from church and church classes, learning the Bible from our parents...) We can't "follow" Jesus if we don't know how to follow Him!

- As I said, there is so much more here. Jesus said these words during one of the main Jewish festivals called "The Feast of Tabernacles." Jewish people from afar would pilgrimage to Jerusalem for this feast of celebration and thanksgiving, focusing on God's provision. There are so many things I want to tell you about it! I highly recommend you read <https://jewsforjesus.org/jewish-resources/jewish-holidays/sukkot/> for your own personal learning. When we know these things, we are able to understand *so much more* about what Jesus is saying!
- For now, focus on one of the three main rituals during this 7-day festival: "Illumination." During this ritual, (when the temple was still standing as it was in Jesus' time), enormous pillars were set up and lit in the Court of Women. Because the temple stood atop a hill, these burning candles lit the entire city below and could be seen from far away. (Just picture this! HUGE gorgeous temple on top of a huge beautiful city!!) This festival had been celebrated for millennia and came with profound theological foundations. When Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World," He was claiming to be God. (I want to explain this so much more! Just read the link above. 😊) He also claimed to be God during the first ritual of this festival called "Rejoicing at the Place of Water-Drawing" when he said (John 7:37-38), "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." (This is all so cool!)
- Reread the verse, picturing Jesus saying this in the context of this enormous, and extremely significant festival and ritual!
- There are 7 "I am" statements in the gospel of John. Can you name some of them? (I am the Light of the World; I am the Bread of Life; I am the Door; I am the Good Shepherd; I

am the Resurrection and the Life; I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; I am the true Vine.)

- Ask each person to share something for which they would like prayed. Close in prayer (can be led by one person or each person can pray), specifically including everyone's prayer requests, thanking God for being the Light of the World, and asking Him to help us follow Him in everything we do.
- Finish by singing the song again!

Optional activity during the week: Blindfold Walk

Have you ever been camping or been outside in the dark? When it gets dark, how do you see?

Do you use a flashlight?

What if you don't have one? How do you know where to walk? Let's try it!

Have someone put a scarf or bandana over your eyes so you can't see. Have them turn you around a few times so you don't know which way you're facing. Begin walking forward.

How does it feel to take a step? (confusing, frustrating, scary?) Keep walking forward and try to travel around.

How would it feel to walk in the darkness without a light for a long time? Would you want to take the blindfold off? Why?

Now take off your blindfold! How do you feel now? (relieved, peaceful, confident?)

This is how people feel when we follow Jesus. He says we will never walk in darkness. Our flashlight is Jesus – the Light of the World (!) – which shines the Light of Life!

Previous Weeks' Lessons:

[May 3, 2020](#)

[April 26, 2020](#)

[April 19, 2020](#)

[April 12, 2020](#)

[April 5, 2020](#)

[March 29, 2020](#)

[March 22, 2020](#)